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United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

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Affairs

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MEMORANDUM

TO: ECON: Jim Larocco, Economic Counselor  
FROM: FAS: Suzanne E. Heinen, Officer-in-Charge  
SUBJECT: FAS Programs in China

FAS has three major activities in two offices in China: agricultural reporting, trade promotion, and scientific technical exchanges in the field of agriculture. These programs have all been affected by recent events in China.

Agricultural reporting has probably been affected least by recent events in China. We have, however, had somewhat poorer access to the Ministries. We have refrained from contacting some of the more reform minded research centers that normally would provide information on policy changes.

Trade promotion is accomplished through FAS Cooperators and through marketing activities of the Agricultural Office. There are three Cooperators resident in Beijing. None of them has returned to Beijing full time, although their offices have reopened under local staff. Many of the activities of these offices involve bringing consultant services to China. These have been suspended because of the travel advisory. Other programs are on hold because their home offices do not feel that they should be working in China under the present advisory. A feed workshop which was scheduled for June has been rescheduled for late August. This will be the first activity since June.

The Agricultural Office in Beijing had scheduled two menu promotions for the summer and early fall, as had the Guangzhou office. They have all been canceled because of the drop in the tourist trade and in the expatriate community. Other promotions for the coming year involving restaurant and high value food promotions are currently under review because of the change in the community.

FAS coordinates with the Ministry of Agriculture in the exchange of scientific and technical teams. Generally each side sends ten teams per year, normally during the summer months. After a short interruption, we have resumed hosting Chinese teams in the U.S. Because of the travel advisory, no U.S. teams have come to China thus far this year.

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